

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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MARK 11:24

"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, Editor

(Message given at Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, July 4, 1948. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

Would you like to learn something about praying that would help you to find the will of God, help you to get things from God, help you to be changed and different from anything you have ever been? Then if you will listen, and if God, in His mercy, moves our hearts, you will learn some things about prayer that will change your life forever. Nearly everybody here has problems. Let's learn the way out. Let's learn the way to victory. Let's learn the way to live on top. Let's learn the way to get what we ought to have. Let's learn to pray!

I call your attention to the eleventh chapter of Mark. Jesus came along the road going into Jerusalem. It was at the Passover season. It was the same week, perhaps, in which He was crucified. The town was packed with people from all over Palestine for the Passover week. Jesus and the disciples spent the night out at Bethany, probably in the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus.

Each morning He would go in. One day He came along and saw a fig tree. He went to see if there were figs on it. There were none, and He pronounced a curse on the fig tree forever. They went on to town and that night they came home after dark, I suppose. They could not tell about the tree. But the second morning they went to town and in passing saw the fig tree. Peter said, "Look! It is dried up from the roots. It is already dead."

Jesus said, "Yes, that is a miracle, but you can perform miracles as big as that. Listen to what He said:

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What

things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."—Mark 11:22-25.

I call your attention to verse 24 particularly: "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

I. Faith and How to Have It

There are two points in this message which I should like for you to note very carefully. First of all, praying people should have faith. "Have faith in God," Jesus said. He did not give this as advice; He gave it as orders.

When I was in the Army in World War I, I remember that the captain put me in charge of a squad of rookies. (I was as much a rookie as any of them.) We were out drilling on the parade ground by squads. I look back with a little bit of homesickness to the good times in the Army—the marching,

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A Preacher At His Best

By REV. R. S. BEAL, D.D.
Pastor First Baptist Church, Tucson, Arizona

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."—(II Tim. 1:12).

A preacher of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ should be always at his best. There never should be a moment of the day or night when he is otherwise. The preacher deals with eternal verities, and the souls of men are at stake. If he is any less than his best, some might miss Heaven and find themselves in an eternal Hell. Dare any preacher be anything less than at his best at all times. In this respect the Apostle Paul provides a good illustration. From the moment he found the Saviour on the highway until the Lord took him home by way of a martyr's death, he was never anything less than the best. He knew Jesus sufficiently well and understood His person and work so thoroughly that to give Him

any other than his best would have been a sin.

God's Word never minimizes the value of preaching. The temptation might come to some to emphasize other aspects of the ministry over preaching, yet in the plan and purpose of God it is

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Dr. L. R. Scarborough

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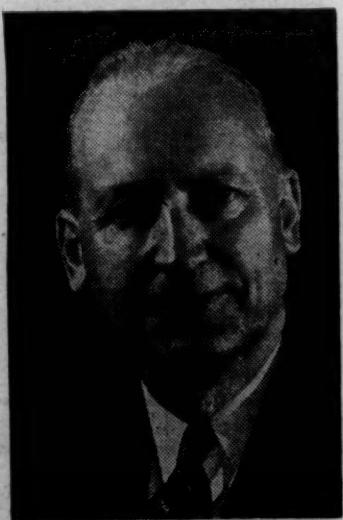
By the Editor

After September 15 the subscription price of THE SWORD OF THE LORD goes back to \$2 per year without premium. In Canada and foreign countries the regular price of \$2.50 per year will also prevail again. But until that time the greatest subscription campaign we have ever had, with the finest offer, rushes on to completion. Our goal is a minimum of 15,000 subscriptions to come during this special offer. We hope to give away 5,000 copies of the editor's book of comfort and encouragement, God's Cure for Anxious Care, one book for every \$3 worth of subscriptions sent. This offer now draws to its close. We can make announcements in only two more issues of THE SWORD OF THE LORD before the campaign is done and is history.

Opportunities are passing away. Our hearts are burdened here at The Sword of the Lord office to see Christ glorified in a wonderful, triumphant close to this campaign. Therefore I make the following solemn, earnest suggestions:

1. Plan now to get your subscriptions in on time! Better send what you can today; send others later when you can get the names or have the money. But your letter must be put in your local post office and postmarked not later than midnight, September 15! Please do not grieve God and fail us by neglecting this duty and privilege. Send your subscriptions today!

2. In Jesus' Name, we beg you, (Continued on Page 5)



Rev. R. S. Beal



By the Late DR. L. R. SCARBOROUGH
Long President, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Famous Evangelist

"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."—Acts 24:25.

Beginning with the 24th verse of the 24th chapter of Acts is a description of the conversation and sermon that the Apostle Paul had and preached to a Roman governor.

Paul was a prisoner and his case was being adjudicated by the government. He had been tried for preaching the gospel and was at this time a prisoner in the jail of Caesarea. But the Roman governor sent him after he had appealed his case to Rome.

"And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife, Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ."

This man charged with great governmental authority was interested in this remarkable man, the Apostle Paul. He had heard his defense at his trial and saw something in him far beyond the ordinary prisoner, and he sent for him to talk with him about the strange and new religion he was preaching.

"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered."

Felix trembled and asked him some questions. There were three things that this prisoner wanted the governor to know. He talked to him about righteousness. There are two kinds of righteousness. There is the righteousness that Jesus Christ gives to the trusting, repenting sinner; and it is a robe, the robe of Christ's righteousness which He gives, not on the basis of merit or worth but on the basis of mercy; and it is that that clothes the soul and is the only righteousness that any man has that recommends him to God as far as salvation is concerned.

My friend, if you have not that righteousness, not your own but Christ's righteousness, imputed, given as a free gift, if the Word of God is true, there is no chance for you without that righteousness ever to pass muster at the great examining trial of God. It is on that righteousness alone that I depend for my salvation.

And then there is another kind of righteousness—the righteousness that we have by our good deeds and our good lives, and the good things that we do here on earth. That is individual righteousness. It helps a great deal with men and I think it helps and gives power with God. It does not in any sense help us in our salvation.

Now, Paul it seems talked to this governor about righteousness, evidently the righteousness of Christ and evidently the righteousness that this governor needed as an influence there in his great position. That was one thing that he pressed home upon the conscience of the governor.

And then he spoke to him about temperance, self-control. It does not here have reference to the temperance that we usually speak of, concerning intemperate drink.

It seems to consider more the matter of conduct and self-control. I am sure that this great apostle bore down upon the conscience of the governor about his conduct, his dissolute life, his intemperate life, his life away from God, his life of sin. I will tell you, my friends, it is good that we have preachers to tell us about our sins. If the preachers do not do it, I do not know who will. Certainly the doctor will not do it. Certainly the lawyer will not do it. Certainly the lawye

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AT SILOAM SPRINGS CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM



Here is a picture taken at THE SWORD OF THE LORD Conference on Evangelism at John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, from June 27 to July 4.

Left to right they are Evangelist John R. Rice; Dr. John E. Brown, famous evangelist and founder of the five John Brown Schools; Evangelist William H. Rice, three years an evangelist on the extension staff of Moody Bible Institute, now associated with THE SWORD OF THE LORD; Dr. Bob Jones Sr., founder of Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, who has spoken to more people in large revival campaigns than any other living man; President John E. Brown, Jr., of John Brown University, host to the conference.

Mark 11:24

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drilling, the manual of arms, etc. We marched around—and after a while the captain came up to where my little squad was drilling. As he drew near I said, "Halt!" The men shuffled to a halt, out of step. Finally they got lined up at attention.

The captain came up to me and said, "Did you give the right command just now when you said 'Halt'?"

"No, Sir; I did not."

He said, "What should you have said?"

"I should have said, 'Squad, halt!' in two counts."

He said, "Why didn't you?"

"Sir, I was scared," I said.

He said, "When you march, hold your head up. If you are going to be a soldier, hold your head up!"

One man did not have one of the pocket buttons on his shirt buttoned, and he said, "Button that shirt!" He gave several other orders and then he turned to go away. I saluted and said, "Thank you, Sir."

He said, "Don't thank me. I am not giving advice; those are orders!"

The Lord did not say it would be nice if you had faith. He said, "Have faith in God." It is as clearly a command of God as the command not to get drunk. It is as clearly a command of God as the command to tell the truth. It is as clearly a command of God as the command not to steal. A Christian ought to have faith in God. And that indicates one can have faith in God. Anything God says to do, you can do by His grace.

1. Faith Is Built on the Bible

How can I have faith? Briefly I call your attention to two or three things:

First, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). You can have faith by getting familiar with the Bible. When that verse was written few people had Bibles. The Scriptures were copied by hand. There were no printing presses. It would cost hundreds of dollars in present value to have a copy of the Bible for yourself. The only way people got the Bible was to hear somebody read it aloud in services. If you want to grow in faith, read the Bible, meditate in the Bible. Why?

Only in the Bible will you find what God said He would do. If you do not know what He has promised, you cannot call on God with any faith. But if you find where He said He would do a thing then you can trust Him for it, can't you? All right, get familiar with the Bible. Learn the Bible. Learn to believe the Bible. Faith comes by learning, in the Bible, what God said He would do.

In the second place, by reading the Bible you can learn what kind of God He is. I remember how I felt when I read how Sennacherib's army was dealt with when Hezekiah brought that letter and put it on the altar before the Lord and said, "It is true that these other gods are not gods; but here is a man insulting God. Will you let him get by?"

That night the angel of the Lord came and smote the Assyrians and of the army of Sennacherib 185,000 men were slain. When they woke up they were all dead men! Isn't it funny the way the Bible says that? It says, "When they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses." That is, some of them got up and the rest of them were dead men. I thought, "Oh, my; I believe I can risk the Lord. I believe I can risk the Lord to look after me!"

When you read the Bible and

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learn the Bible you know what kind of God, God is; and you learn that you can trust Him.

When I read about how the Lord helped old Daniel out in the lions' den and about the Hebrew children—how they trusted Him and what God did for them—my faith grew. Becoming familiar with the Bible and meditating on the Bible grows faith. There is not any way much to grow in faith if you will not find what God has promised, and what the Bible shows that God has done for others.

What is faith anyhow? Faith is not a feeling. Some people say, "Oh, yes I have lots of faith," when they simply mean they have a certain kind of feeling. No! No! Faith is taking God up on His Word.

What is faith? I'll give you an illustration: Here is a bank that says they are a safe depository; and I put my money in there. That is faith.

A man says he loves a girl, says he will be good to her, says he will be true to her. She believes him and loves him, and marries him. That is faith.

Somebody says to you about a horse: The horse is gentle. He will not hurt you; he is a nice horse. And you get on him. That is faith. Faith is risking somebody's word. Faith in God is risking God's Word. So if you want to have faith, learn it from the Bible. If you get to know the Bible and love the Bible and believe the Bible, if you get the spirit of the Bible, you are bound to grow in faith.

2. Faith Comes As a Gift of God in Answer to Prayer

Another way to have faith is to ask God for it. In other words, as you get close to God and wait on God, God's Holy Spirit grows faith in your heart. Faith is, in some sense, a product of the Spirit of God. So the disciples prayed, "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). And a distressed father prayed, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" (Mark 9:24). Haven't you sometimes prayed and God said, "I'll do it"? Not in words, maybe; but you just knew He would do it.

When my daughter Grace was about four years old she had a sore throat. We gave her some milk of magnesia. We mopped her throat. We took care of her the best we could. Finally her fever went to 105 degrees. Her throat was raw and swollen nearly shut and had white patches on it. We took her to Dr. Reeves, an old family doctor whom we had known for years. He looked at her and said, "John, I am nearly certain that this baby has diphtheria, but I am going to make sure."

He took a swab from her throat, smeared it on a little glass slide and sent it to a laboratory in the same building. "Give me a report by telephone just as soon as possible. Let me know whether there are diphtheria germs here or not," he said.

In a little bit the telephone rang and the man said, "There is no doubt but that it is diphtheria." They gave toxin-antitoxin; gave an injection to the baby, Mary Lloys, so she would not get the diphtheria. We took Grace home. The house was quarantined. The doctor gave instructions and said, "I will be there in the morning."

I said to my wife, "I have been praying for other people's children. God has been answering prayer and healing other people. I am going to pray for my own baby now. I am going to kneel here by this bed and stay on my knees until God tells me it is all right."

My wife said, "Yes, I think that is the thing to do." So we knelt down and I prayed and she prayed. I prayed and she prayed. Finally I said, "It's all right. The Lord tells me it is all right. She will be healed—it's all right." We got up off our knees.

That afternoon all the fever left. Grace said, "Daddy, can I get up and play?"

I said, "No, honey; I don't want to be presumptuous. I suppose you had better stay in bed." I said, "I want the doctor out here

to see." And I sent for the doctor. I sent for the county health nurse to check on the quarantine. The nurse came and checked over the girl. She said, "Why, this child does not have diphtheria!"

I said, "I do not think she does either, but she did have this morning. We took her to the doctor, the doctor took a culture, it was sent to the laboratory. We were not guessing about it; we know she had diphtheria this morning. But I do not think she does this afternoon."

"Well," she said, "she does not have any fever, the throat is not raw, there are no patches there. I think she is all right."

"Shall I take down the quarantine sign, then?" I asked.

"No," she said, "the county health officer will have to do that. But I will see him and tell him there was a mistake about it. You can't have that sign out there."

Grace said, "Daddy, may I get up and play?"

I said, "No."

She said, "Well, may I have my dolls then?"

I said, "Yes," and she sat up in bed and played with her dolls. Then the county health officer came out and said, "The girl is all right," and took down the sign. But I knew that God had told me while I was still on my knees, "Yes, sir, I am going to heal her; it is all right."

What I am saying is that God gives faith. When people draw nigh and wait on God, God gives faith. So you can pray for faith and wait on God until God speaks to you.

3. Faith Comes From Trying God Out: Prove God!

Here is another thing: If you want to have faith, stick out your neck. Would you like to have faith for great emergencies? Well, I will tell you what to do. When it is a case of bowing down to the idol or going to the fiery furnace, go on to the furnace! If you do not have faith, you will get some. Stick out your neck!

In other words, try God out. There are some things you will not know until you try them. Why don't you try God and see if He is lying? Why don't you see if the Bible is a fake? Why don't you see whether it works or not? When it works a while you will know! Your faith will grow, if you try God out.

I used to get in a pretty big tight sometimes about money, and I would pray. Now I have to need a whole lot of money before I get very much excited about it. I have so often tried the Lord that I can now talk to the Lord about \$10,000 about as easily as I could talk to Him about \$50 one time. The reason is, I have tried the Lord out many times and He has never let me down. God says, "Prove me now herewith . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). Try God out! Wonderful things you will find as you try Him out.

Some of you do not have any faith about tithing. If you would try God out on the matter of tithes and offerings and prove Him, you will see that He will open the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing. And the next time it will not be so hard to try Him; you will believe Him ahead of time. Faith comes by taking God up and trying it to see whether it works. Blessed is the Christian who sticks out his neck! Blessed is the Christian who gets himself in a tight—gets himself to where he will sure be ruined if it turns out that God does not keep His promise!

I wish I had time to tell you, and that it was suitable to tell you about some of the extremities, some of the tights I have gotten in just to prove that God does all He promises to do, all He implies He will do.

One time a group of men waited on me and said, "If you do not break a certain connection, if you do not quit a certain course, we will go before the county workers' meeting (next to the largest association in Texas) next Monday and denounce you. You are a young evangelist and you will never get a meeting with that crowd if we do it. We will put it in a certain state paper. You

will just be out of the ministry. You will never have another revival meeting in Texas. You will not be able to educate your children. You will be forced out of the ministry if you do not quit this course."

I said, "If God cannot look after me without the favor of men I will quit Him. If I cannot have revival meetings without currying favor and kowtowing to men, then I will not have any meetings. If the God who saved me and called me to the ministry cannot keep me busy, cannot take care of me and help me to raise my family without my cutting any corners, then I will quit Him. I will try Him out and if He fails, then I will quit Him. If He does not fail me, I will know that the Bible works."

I stepped out on faith, and from that time on I have had a boldness of faith unknown before. I will tell you this secret: I do not mean it unkindly, but one reason some people do not like me is that I am so all-fired dogmatic. There are some things I just know; some things I have proved. I am not guessing about them; I KNOW about them. Thank God, I know God answers prayer and takes care of His own.

You may get scared when you are threatened a time or two—but go on and prove God; and after a while you will not be easily scared! I do not think Daniel was much excited when people threatened him after he got out of the lion's den. The next time somebody said, "If you don't look out we will tell the king on you," I think Daniel thumbed his nose at them and told them to jump in the lake. It did not worry him. Listen to me! Do you want to grow in faith? Then try God out; give God a chance to prove Himself!

II. Christians Should Pray for Whatever They Want!

Notice Mark 11:24: "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." In other words, when you believe that you receive them, you have them. Isn't that a sweet thing, a wonderful thing? Do you want something? All right, ask for it.

Somebody says, "Brother Rice, God did not promise to give you what you want. He just promised to supply your needs." That sounds mighty fine, but it is not so. It is not so! The Bible says for you to ask for "WHAT THINGS SOEVER YE DESIRE, when ye pray." "Oh," you say, "Brother Rice, it must not mean that." Yes, it means that because so many other Scriptures say the same thing.

"Is that so?" you say.

Yes, sir.

"Where is there one?"

In Philippians 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." What does that Scripture say? It says to pray about everything. Pray for everything you want, every heart's desire.

In Psalm 37:4 we have the promise: "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Notice, now; I am not talking about under what condition you are to get the things you desire. But the Bible says when you pray ask for the desires of your heart, and it says that if you will meet certain conditions you will get them. So when you go to pray, what are you going to pray about? All the desires of your heart!

Some people have the idea that some things are religious and some are secular. They think that some things you have a right to ask God about, but some things you ought to work out yourself, without prayer.

1. Nothing Should Be Secular to a Christian

When I was a boy I thought if a person got in a tight for food it was all right to pray for common food because it was a necessity. But I thought it would not be right, I thought it would be rather sacrificial to pray for strawberry shortcake and pineapple upside cake! But that is not what the Bible says.

In John 14:13, 14 we read: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my

name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." You can ask what? Anything! What are you going to ask for when you pray? Ask for what you want. Go ahead! Speak up; ask for what you want!

"Oh," somebody says, "but, Brother Rice, you may be asking for the wrong thing." Well, suppose for the sake of argument that you might want the wrong thing and might be asking for the wrong thing. Suppose you come to God and say, "God, this is what I want. I will not lie to You. I will not try to deceive You. I will not keep any secrets from You. You are the One I ought to talk to about it. See my heart, Lord; this is what I want." Don't you think that would be better than to say, "All right, Lord; these are some things I know I have a right to ask You for. I am going to ask You for them. But these other things are against Your will. I have no right to pray for them so I will try to get them by hook or crook without praying." Why would it be better to shut God out of a large part of the desires and wants of your heart and try to get by God and try to get it for yourself without His help?

No, sir; listen to me! I will tell you what God wants you to do. God wants you to say, "Lord Jesus, I will not hide a thing from You." I am going to tell You everything I think and everything I want. If there is anything wrong with what I want, You fix my "wander"; but I am going to take You into my confidence and take everything to God in prayer." That is what the Bible says specifically again and again—that you are to pray about "what things soever ye desire." It says, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." It says, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." You see, God intends for Christians to ask for anything they want.

2. God Is Interested in Every Desire of His Child

I have some children. Have you? Does anybody here have a grown girl who has gone off to college? (Hands are raised.) Yes, some of you have—Brother Hankins has, and Mrs. McCleskey has. All right, your girl writes back from college, Brother Hankins, and says, "Daddy, we are studying pretty hard. I made B+ in a certain course. And I haven't gotten any demerits this semester. And, Daddy, there is a certain boy I want to tell you about . . ."

Dr. Hankins writes back and says, "Why bother me with all that stuff? Don't be pestering me! I am too busy to be taking into consideration your grades, who you went with, who you have

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a date with, and stuff like that. Don't bother me!" Didn't you write back like that, Brother Hankins?

Dr. Hankins: "No, I didn't."

You didn't!

Mrs. McCleskey's daughter writes and says, "Mama, what do you think about such and such a boy?"

Mrs. McCleskey says, "Don't pester me about such things as that!"

No, Mrs. McCleskey, if the time ever came when she did not take you into her confidence, you would just grieve and grieve! If she went for a time and didn't write you, you would say, "Why doesn't she write? I think she is all right, but I want her to write." She would say, "Well, Mother, I suppose you would not be interested in this." And Mrs. McCleskey would say, "Yes, it is interesting to me; tell me all about it." She would be a queer mother if she did not.

Do you know what God the Father says? He says, "I have these children . . ." I do not know why, but somehow God just cannot do without us. It is a strange thing, but Jesus Christ would not be happy in Heaven without us. God wants our fellowship. Isn't that strange? Our heavenly Father says, "I wish they would talk to Me. I wish they would take me into their confidence. I wish they would tell Me everything they want." He says, "What things soever you desire, pray about it." He says, "Be careful for nothing. Do not worry about anything. But pray about everything. Pray for what ever you want."

Sometimes I pray and say, "Lord, I believe I need this for Your business." About some other things I say, "Lord, I don't need them but it would be mighty sweet, it would be a token of Your love if you would give me certain things." Let me tell you something that may sound silly.

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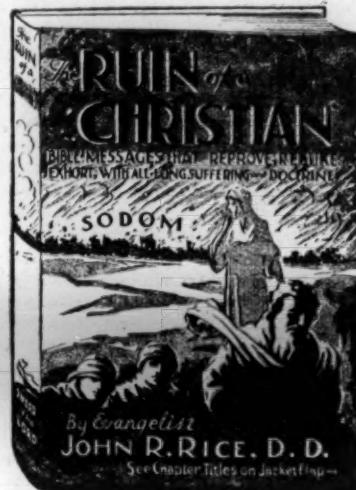
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I went to the cafe one day.
(Continued on Page 8)

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Perils of Postponement

(Continued from Page 1)

will not do it, unless he is paid in a case to condemn us and abuse us. Then he will talk to us about our sins; but not for the purpose of correcting us, but for the purpose of ruining our reputation in order that he may gain the case of his client. Our merchants will not tell us of our sins, because they want to sell us goods. If the preacher does not tell us of our sins, who will? A man who corrects me and tells me of my wrongs, my sins, is my benefactor, if he does it in the right spirit, constructively, in order to straighten out my life.

For twenty-five years I have been trying to tell people of their sins. I can say that never in wrath nor in revenge nor in malice did I ever tell anybody of their sins. If in this meeting I have had to get on your toes and your corns and your conscience, I have done it for your good. I will tell you there needs to be a good, first class, Holy Ghost skinning on the part of the people of this town. I am a little afraid you have been too good to me since I have been here. If you had not been so good to me, I might have skinned you more.

Paul took the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit, and bore down on the conduct of this great man, this man who had a great position. He was a little man in a big job and Paul got in after him.

And the other thing he talked to him about was the judgment to come—the judgment for sin, the judgment for our conduct, the great Judgment Day, and the Judge who will judge us in righteousness in that great day. Paul said to this man, "You have got to come to the Judgment Bar of God." And Paul told this man here that some day God would arraign him before the Judgment Bar; and the effect of this sermon was tremendous on Felix. It says that he trembled. He was shaken in his conscience. He was terrified. He had an army, but he was afraid. He had a great position, but his conscience was aroused, and neither his army nor his position nor his political power nor his personal power could shield him from the fear that came into his soul. When you face your conscience and your sins, the Devil makes a coward of you. And there have been in these services here at night men by the scores who, like Felix, trembled in their boots as the Spirit of God got hold of them.

Now, notice what this terrified man said:

"Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time: when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

This man put off the call of God. He postponed the most important matter that ever comes to the decision of men. God called him, his conscience was stirred, he was shaken in his boots. And yet he put it off and postponed it. I want to tell you tonight, my friends, that that is one of the shrewdest tricks that the Devil has ever played. The Devil knows that Jesus Christ is divine. The Devil knows that the Bible is inspired, that the blood of Jesus Christ saves from all sin. The Devil knows that Jesus has an army in this world that is trying to take this world away from Satan and transfer it to Jesus Christ. And his arguments against the power of Jesus Christ have almost all of them been failures. But his great plan is to acknowledge the deity of Christ, the inspiration of the Scriptures, and agree with the preachers; but he tells the sinner, "You have plenty of time yet. Just put it off. Tomorrow will be a better day. There will be another season. There will be a time when the environment will be better, when your condition for being saved will be greatly improved. Put it off; put it off. Set aside the call of God. Turn away the Spirit's impressions; turn away. Wait! Wait! There is plenty of time."

I believe tonight there are more people going down to Hell by

this tactic of the Devil than any other thing in the world. There are more Christian people whose lives are being hurt by putting off than any other one thing. There are men and women I have preached to here every night who know they are not saved, but they are just putting it off, waiting for a different feeling; and they are sacrificing their power. And they are in the way of their children and their neighbors and their friends.

Now, I want to appeal to you as sensible men tonight. You would not do it in your business. You would not do it concerning an oil lease. But concerning the most vital and meaningful matter in this world you are putting off.

You are following afar off from God and waiting by the leadership of the Devil. You are going down and sacrificing your influence and power all for the inexcusable reason that you just want to wait. Now, my friends, I want you to listen to me a little while tonight as I speak to you about the perils of postponing the most vital matter in the kingdom of God, the awful risk you make in putting off this matter of salvation and your coming back to God.

I am speaking tonight to the backslider and to the unsaved man. Let us take up some of these dangers, some of the risks you are running.

The Peril of the Wrath of God

Here is one of them. In putting off the matter of your salvation there is the peril of the wrath of God. God is not only a God of love; He is a God of wrath and He has the sword of His indignation, and the vial of His wrath that He will pour out. And every hour you put off the matter of your salvation or your coming back to God you run the awful risk of coming under the wrath of God.

The Peril of the Mercy of God

There is another peril—the peril of the mercy of God. I know God is patient. I know He is long-suffering. And yet I know, my friend, that even the patience and the mercy of God have a limit and the day may come and it may come any time when the mercy of God in your life will be turned into the consuming wrath of God. God says that, "My Spirit shall not always strive with men." He has been merciful to you. He has called on you for your salvation and you have put Him off. I am sure that I am speaking to men who for ten and fifteen and twenty and twenty-five and some thirty years and some fifty years have put away the call of God, and God is still merciful to you and still calls at the door of your heart. Sometime His mercy will be turned into wrath and that divine Spirit will knock at the door of your heart no more and "Ichabod" will be written over the door of your soul.

The worst condition out of Hell tonight is that condition of the man from whom the Spirit of God has withdrawn the mercy of God.

The Peril of Death

And then there is another great peril that your postponement brings on you and this is the peril of death. I have held but one meeting in twenty-five years of four hundred and fifty meetings but what the pastor of the church or some preacher connected with that meeting did not bury somebody. Somebody died in connection with that meeting. The telephone message came tonight to one of the preachers who has been in this meeting that his sister had died in a hospital. Oh, there is death in the land; and every time you put off your salvation you bring the hour of your death a little closer and your chances to be saved just one less. I wish you would solemnly hear this truth tonight, that you are in danger of death.

There are all sorts of diseases. There are all sorts of germs in our bodies now. There is poison in our blood. There are germs of disease everywhere that are crouching for our death. Automobiles kill people and germs kill

people and trains kill people. I tell you, my friends, that the postponement of your salvation is greatly imperiling your chances in death.

A few Sunday mornings ago I preached to a great crowd in one of the Baptist churches in Little Rock, Arkansas. After I had preached, a brother came to join the church. He was a big, fine-looking doctor. He looked to be in perfect health. We shook hands and I congratulated him on coming into the church. And his friends gathered about him and were happy that day. Do you know, that afternoon at six o'clock that physician was driving in his automobile in answer to a call. A woman was seated in the car with him; and all at once his car ran into the curb and the woman looked and saw the doctor with his lifeless hands holding the wheel of that car. Died! Died! The very day in less than six hours after he had joined the church! Oh, there is danger of death all about us! God help you tonight to see it.

Every grave in the cemetery is a sermon; every tombstone by the roadside is a sermon; and every sickness in your body, every pain and every ache you have is a call of Almighty God for you to get on God's side and be saved from your sins. Oh, my friend, I wish you would not run the risk of not being saved another day nor another night.

The Peril of the Hardening Heart

Then there is another peril. It is the peril of a hardening heart. Oh, my friends, there is not anything that is more damnable and mean and iniquitous that sin does to us than that it hardens our hearts against the call of God!

Oh, my friends I wish you would hear the testimony of your own hearts tonight. I remember my own case. A lad of ten years of age I sat on the stool at my mother's knee one afternoon as she talked to me about Jesus Christ, and tears came to my eyes as that mother talked to me. Six years after that that same mother came into my room the afternoon before I was saved, sat on the bedside as I was studying my lessons, and started to talk to me about Jesus Christ. And I got up and stamped my way out of the room and said, "Mother, I do not want to hear about your Jesus Christ." My soul had been hardened against the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are old, hard sinners here whose souls are being crusted by the sins of these years. There was a time when any preacher could move your heart to tears; but now preachers may come, I do not care who they are, and your loved ones may gather about you, and that old heart of yours is as hard as a rock. Sin has been hardening your heart. I do not know how you feel about it; but I bless God for a tender nature. I have no sympathy for these old "hard boiled" people. There is nothing for you to be proud of in it.

I want to tell you, my friend, that you ought to turn away from the hardness of your soul and cultivate some of the tender things of life and of God. They tell me that one of your most prominent citizens this afternoon, a strong, good man, a man who has the esteem of his people, stood on the street corner as people talked to him and cried like his heart would break. I honor him for it. A man who cannot shed tears, a man who has no sympathy, who has no human kindness, is not a good citizen. I tell you tonight, sin is making your heart hard against the call of God, and you will go down to Hell a doomed and condemned sinner.

God help you to know that every time you go through a meeting like this you just that much harder your heart against God, and there is a peril and a danger that is awful.

The Peril of Feelings

And then there is another peril. It is the peril of feelings. The old Devil is a sly old coon about it. He will tell you that you ought not to seek Jesus Christ until you feel like it. I will tell you, I believe in shouting and praising God; but sometimes these great cases where people shout have set the wrong standard for many peo-

A Preacher at His Best

(Continued from Page 1)

paramount in Christian service. Paul knew this and guarded his preaching with the greatest of care and exercised the strictest possible discipline over himself. Wrote he, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Cor. 9:27). The word "castaway" does not imply that he was fearful of losing his salvation which he had in Christ. This, of course, would be impossible. Jesus said, "... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Paul was exercised in soul lest after preaching to others and calling upon them to live to the glory of God, he might be found inconsistent and thus disapproved as worthy of the crown and prize. The task of preaching was so important as to demand his best at all times.

Let us note how God magnifies the usefulness of preaching. "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1:17, 18). And he adds further, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (Vs. 21). The world looks upon preaching as a foolish thing, yet it is by

ple. They say, "If I cannot get it that way, I won't start to God." You wait for feeling. I bless God for feeling, but I want you to discriminate and have feelings that are the right kind. I believe in experimental religion. I believe that when a soul is saved, he can know that he is saved. I know this; if I eat chicken or a good beefsteak, I know I have something good in my stomach; and if I get as big a thing as Jesus Christ in my heart, I will know it. I do not believe in this dry-as-shucks religion. I believe in heartfelt religion. But I want you to understand about these feelings. You do not have to feel good before you trust Jesus Christ.

I sat down today to a good dinner. I had an appetite. Suppose I had sat there and let that dinner alone until I felt satisfied. When did I have good feelings? I had good feelings after I took the dinner into my stomach. And when you take Jesus Christ into your heart, you will have more feeling than you know what to do with.

If your judgment tells you you are a sinner, God help you to start to God and open the door of your heart and let Jesus Christ in. The Devil says, "Wait, wait for a more convenient season." He says, "Just put it off. It will be better tomorrow night." There are whole trainloads of men going to Hell tonight all because they are waiting for a more convenient season. God help you to take advantage of the opportunity that is given you and seek the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior.

This man Felix said, "Paul, go your way now." He just put it off. He said, "I will call for you when I have a more convenient season." History says he never called for Paul. The next time we hear of him, we hear of him as an insane madman in the mountains of Italy, committing suicide. He put God off. He followed his sins. He disregarded the judgment to come. Oh, my friend, that convenient season never came for him to call the Apostle Paul. He went down to Hell because he did not accept the chances that God gave him to be saved.

I plead with you, do not put it off. God is here tonight; salvation is a present salvation. Jesus Christ is able and willing to save. Thank God, He is ready to save; and tonight if you will turn your heart longingly to Him, desiring to give up your sins, He will save you where you are now. God help you not to put off any longer this matter of salvation.

this means that the gospel is known and the Word expounded so that men might hear and believe to the salvation of their souls. So important did Paul feel this task to be that he cried out, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (I Cor. 9:16).

The Lord Jesus made preaching the most essential thing in His earthly ministry. He went everywhere doing good, healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind and casting out demons. Yet above all, His soul was burdened to preach, thus we read, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities" (Matt. 11:1). Further we read, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). As we follow the Master from one place to another we get another fine illustration from Him of the importance of preaching. "And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them" (Mark 2:1, 2). To this end was He anointed and He made it the chief part of His service to others. If the Lord Jesus found it so important to His own work, then every minister should so consider it, and because it is the most essential business in the world his best is demanded at all times. God forbid that any servant of His should be less than his very best for Christ's sake.

In discussing this subject I assume that no one would want to be in the ministry or would attempt to preach the Word unless he had come to Christ for salvation. No one can be at his best until he has found the best, which is salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. God does not call the unregenerate into His service. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). Thus, we see the folly of unsaved men trying to occupy the pulpit. It is more than a waste of time. In his unregenerate state, Paul had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. As far as men go, he was a remarkable individual, but ignorant of the things of God. When he met the risen Christ and asked two questions, he made a good start, "Who art thou, Lord?" and "... what wilt thou have me to do?" We are to settle first the matter of the deity of the Lord, then as to duty, we are to do what He wills. It is just here that the beginning is made, and from this point on every servant of His needs to be at his best.

To be at his best, a preacher

Recognize the Divine Call

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles" (II Tim. 1:11). In

(Continued on Page 5)

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A Preacher at His Best

(Continued from Page 4)

his heart, this mighty man of God had the abiding conviction that God had laid His hand upon him for the sacred vocation of preaching. Just as we read how John the Baptist was a man sent from God, so it was with this great saint. It is true that Paul did bear a definite relationship to this age in that God had vouchsafed truth to him, never before divulged to men. Paul recognized it and so testified in the following manner, ". . . a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me" (I Cor. 9:17). ". . . The dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward" (Eph. 3:2). A little further on in the same chapter Paul writes, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:8, 9). Thus, the apostle testifies to the fact that God laid His hands upon him and called him to make known the unsearchable riches of His grace.

I for one would not spend five minutes of my time trying to preach unless there was the conviction in my soul that God had called me to this task. My ambition is to be in the center of His will, and His will for me is that I shall preach His Word and make Jesus Christ known. I praise Him daily that He counted me faithful, putting me in the ministry. I want to be like Paul as he wrote, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand" (I Cor. 15:1). There can be no joy in this task unless a preacher is motivated by the abiding conviction of a divine call. "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel."

Since God has called us to this holy office and has endowed us with the privilege of preaching His Word and making it possible for us to live by this task, it behoves us all to be at our best in every way. The best preparation is demanded if it is to be done effectively, and unceasing prayer must be combined with it. Nothing less than this will do, nor will it satisfy Him who has called us. Let us then "give of our best to the Master."

If a preacher is to be at his best for the Lord Jesus, he must be

Willing to Sacrifice

Said Paul when discussing the ministry with Timothy, whom he called his son in the ministry, "I am appointed a preacher . . . For the which cause I also suffer these things . . ." (II Tim. 1:11, 12). Paul's Christianity cost him something and the same may be said about his preaching. Every true preacher of the gospel must be prepared to be rebuffed and to bear persecution for his Master. To preach the truth is a great offence to many. Men do not like to be told of their sins and the consequences thereof. On more than one occasion, this great preacher of the first century shed his blood for Christ's sake. He wrote, ". . . I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus" (Gal. 6:17). In that coming day, God will not be looking for the worldly honors His servants have won or the degrees or the badges. He will not search the pages of Who's Who to see if our names are there. He will look for blood stains, stripes and scars, and our reward will be according to these. Surely our best is demanded in order to meet an antagonistic world.

When Paul presented the ministry to Timothy he put it before him in its true light. He charged him to "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season . . . and then added, "but watch thou in all things, endure afflictions . . ." (II Tim. 4:2, 5). Though a preacher at his best, the apostle was not spared hardships and imprisonments. In this same epistle he said, "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the

testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner . . ." (II Tim. 1:8). God forbid that we should step into the holy office of the ministry with any less ambition than Paul in this matter of sacrifice. We will never be at our best if we make reservations of any sort. All must be upon the altar, and all worldly gain must be fully yielded to His cause. If our minds are taken up with stocks and bonds, with lands and houses, with bank accounts and money making, we are unfitted for the work and cannot be at our best. This task is so tremendous that nothing short of our best will suffice.

To be at his best for the Master who called him into His service, the preacher must be

Filled With Courage

"Nevertheless I am not ashamed" (II Tim. 1:12). "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . ." (Rom. 1:16). Too many are intimidated by opposition and are quick to give up. They lack in courage and therefore cannot be at their best. "The fear of man bringeth a snare . . ." and they stumble and become a mere tool in the hands of others.

This holy boldness is largely lost to the ministry today. A sort of sickly sentimentalism prevails and there is no voice lifted against the crushing evils of the hour. Men are racing headlong into Hell because the preacher is not at his best in courage. The reason we have so much worldliness in the church at this hour is the failure of so many of us to rebuke those who sin. The boldness of the ancient prophets is no longer felt. The ministry of John the Baptist is seldom duplicated nowadays. He lost his head for rebuking sin, but in so doing he was at his best. The twenty-third chapter of Matthew is not being repeated in the pulpit in these modern days as it records the mighty rebukings of the Son of Man against the Scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites of His day.

If we are to be at our best, timidity must go in the face of the world, the flesh and the Devil. May God give us all a baptism of real courage to carry on for Him and thus be at our best.

No minister of the gospel or Christian worker can be at his best for the Lord unless he is Motivated With Conviction

"I know, I know" is like a solemn refrain running all through Paul's epistles. "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded" (II Tim. 1:12). You never hear this great preacher say, "I suppose, or I guess, or I am trying to be a Christian." He knew whereof he spoke when he said, ". . . whose I am, and whom I serve" (Acts 27:23). Paul knew his Bible and he knew what his duty was as a preacher of the gospel. He understood he was separated unto it and that he was saved in order to make Jesus known to others.

To sound an uncertain note in our preaching is to be useless in the pulpit for it only breeds doubt in the hearts of others. It is wrong for Christians to live in an atmosphere of uncertainty not knowing whither they are going or what they are doing. Definiteness and certainty are tremendous elements of spiritual power. No preacher was ever fruitful in his ministry who was uncertain of his message.

One never found Paul dabbling in comparative religions. He was not compromising with the religions of his day in an effort to discover congenial elements and points of contact. He never resorted to complicity with evil to obtain prestige, or to bring the church into popular favor with the world. A preacher to be at his best must possess one cry, one hope, one message, one conviction and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. It must be Jesus all the time and only Jesus at any time.

God's servant to be at his best as he works in the harvest field must be the Possessor of Faith

"For I know whom I have be-

lieved" (II Tim. 1:12). Paul believed Jesus; he trusted His Word fully and rested wholly upon the promises of God. It is faith in Christ Jesus that brings men into a vital relationship to God as Father. God fully responds to faith. Paul reminded the Hebrew saints that "without faith it is impossible to please him . . ." (Heb. 11:6). Faith is the channel through which God works. How can the preacher pray if he does not have faith? How can he preach the Word until he has faith in the gospel he declares? How can he be at his best until, like Paul, he believes the reality of Christianity and the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit? Jesus was no small person to Paul. He was not merely an example, a good man or a great teacher—He was a living Saviour and One on whom he could lean for victory.

Doubting Thomases in the pulpit are to be pitied and likewise the people who have to listen to them. The reason so many lack faith is because so many fail to read and study their Bible. ". . . Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). May God give us an increasing faith to the end that we might be at our best for Him. May each of us heed Paul's exhortation to "study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). More men in the pulpit today are failing through lack of faith than through moral lapse, though God knows the latter is bad enough. When we lose faith in the work we are doing and in the Word we are called upon to preach, all is lost and we become sounding brass and clangling cymbal.

In the same text which is before us in Second Timothy, Paul bears witness to the fact that he is persuaded. This is a secret essential to us if we are to be at our best. Let the preacher be

Wholly Persuaded

"I . . . am persuaded that he is able to keep." There is no better persuasion than this. It touches the personal life of each one of us. I am persuaded that I am a child of God. I am persuaded that I am kept by His power. I am persuaded that I am in the place where He wants me to be. If the preacher has any misgivings about the ministry, or the church to which he ministers he is far below par and his preaching is correspondingly impaired.

Such persuasion as filled the heart of Paul makes preaching a joy and a delight. It takes all the drudgery out of it. A man does not worry about his salary, about his vacation, about side trips and all the rest of it. He is not concerned about running off to Europe and taking a world tour for his health's sake. There is a drive that causes him to go at "top speed" for he is persuaded that he is in the greatest work in all the world.

Finally, if a man is to be at his best for Jesus in the holy office of the ministry he must be

Completely Surrendered

This thought is brought out in the last statement of the text before us, "I have committed unto him." Praise God for this! It is complete surrender.

All must be committed to Him if we are to be at our best. Full surrender to the purposes and plan of God for the life is the only rightful course.

The WORLD'S FUTURE Is Being DECIDED NOW!

For the peace of the world, the Slavonic nations must be evangelized! Now is the time for this most important task facing the world! Especially the Christians must face this task squarely and bravely!

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Dept. SL

Sub. Offer Closes Sept. 15!

(Continued from Page 1)

remember preachers with THE SWORD OF THE LORD! If you could only read the letters we get which are the overflow of grateful hearts for whom someone has subscribed, I know you would subscribe for others. One man read three copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD and then with a glad heart sent a check for \$20 which we are using to pay for subscriptions to preachers.

From ministers all over America and Canada and on the mission field we get letters telling how THE SWORD OF THE LORD has revived their faith, has strengthened their ministry, has given them illustrations and outlines and thoughts for their own sermons. Just now I am thinking about a bishop in Canada; an Evangelical and Reformed pastor in an eastern city; two Lutheran pastors who were led out into soul-winning efforts in Lutheran churches; a Mennonite pastor who became a blessed evangelist and won some thirteen hundred souls in the last year; a Methodist pastor who had been educated away from his childhood faith and was brought back from his modernism to joyful acceptance again of the Bible as the Word of God and Christ as the Son of God; the president of one of the largest theological seminaries in the world who said that he often used sermon material from THE SWORD OF THE LORD; a strong Baptist pastor who was led out of his pastorate into the field of evangelism all by THE SWORD OF THE LORD!

All these said, in different words, that THE SWORD OF THE LORD had tremendously influenced their lives and their ministries. In Jesus' name, help get THE SWORD OF THE LORD into hands of ministers of the gospel everywhere!

3. Send subscriptions to the unsaved. You may be surprised to learn it, but in a large percent of cases unsaved people read THE SWORD OF THE LORD gladly. It looks like a newspaper. It is in plain, simple language. There are stirring illustrations. In fact, the same quality that draws great crowds to hear the preachers who write for THE SWORD OF THE LORD makes their messages attractive reading to the unsaved and the backsliders.

In one year seventy-two people wrote us to say they found Christ through the sermons in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Last month a sermon by Evangelist Bill Rice brought four letters from people who said they found Christ through his message. One such letter came today. We know by hundreds of actual examples that many lost sinners can be won to Christ if only their loved ones will see that THE SWORD OF THE LORD is put before them each week. Will you not, in faith, use some of God's money to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to unsaved families? Many unsaved people have very little reading matter.

4. Somebody should send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to every family in your church. Will you not prayerfully consider that matter? Perhaps you should talk the matter over with your pastor. What small cost for so much spiritual blessing!

5. We are earnestly praying that a number of Christians will offer to pay, each one, for all the ministers of his denomination, in



UKRAINE—The Most Strategic Gospel Field in Europe

his state. We have a burden to help ministers, to stir their hearts for revival. Will you supply the ministers of your denomination in your state with THE SWORD OF THE LORD if we will get the names? If you cannot send the paper eight months to each minister in your state, we will make you a special offer of a ten-week's trial subscription for ministers at a special rate.

6. Finally, I beseech you to carry your end of the load. Workers in THE SWORD OF THE LORD office are planning to send five hundred subscriptions and have already given over half of that amount. If these few office workers, on ordinary salary, can give \$500 worth of subscriptions, you ought to help us by sending your share of subscriptions to others. One preacher gave a check for \$100 for subscriptions for preachers. Another minister sent 204 subscriptions in one letter, all but one or two of them to ministers. One Christian layman is paying for short-term subscriptions to every Protestant minister in his state, as soon as we can secure their names. Many are doing their part with earnest prayer and burden. In Jesus' name, we ask you to do your part.

Remember, this offer closes September 15. Please get your last subscriptions in the mail at your local post office postmarked not later than midnight that date.

WILL WE REACH OUR GOAL OF 15,000 SUBSCRIPTIONS TO BE SENT DURING THIS SPECIAL OFFER? If those who love the Lord and believe in evangelism will do their part, we will triumph wonderfully and you will read a happy report at the close of the campaign!

Do your part today! Send all subscriptions to Sword of the Lord Publishers, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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THE CURSE MADE A BLESSING!

By the Editor

The commercial moving pictures are a curse to thousands with their pictures showing crime and adultery, dancing, drunkenness and divorce as attractive and normal. But, thank God, the motion picture machine can be used to get out the gospel. The Scriptures Visualized Institute of Wheaton, Illinois, Mr. C. O. Baptista, director, is earnestly getting out the gospel in Christian sound moving pictures. They have made two of my sermons into films. I mean that they took a continuous picture of me standing in the pulpit preaching the two sermons and recorded the ser-

mons word-for-word. They then added many illustrations. While I preach on, the audience suddenly sees what I am saying illustrated before their eyes. I tell about a man in jail and the alibis he gives for his sins. As I tell the story, suddenly you see the man in jail making his alibis as I repeat the words. Then as I tell about my mother who on her deathbed made all of us promise to meet her in Heaven, one sees suddenly a careful reproduction of the scene—my mother, my father and other members of the family with me as a little boy, nearly six

years old. So, beside hearing every word exactly as I speak, in my own voice, the audience sees me as I stand before them, every gesture, every movement, except when some thrilling illustration is inserted to make even more clear what I am saying.

One of these films is to the unsaved. It is "The Dying Thief," twenty minutes long, and already we have heard of many, many souls saved through this picture. Before me is a note from Mr. Baptista saying: "Dear Brother Rice, While you are down in Georgia, people are getting saved in Canada through your pictures."

He enclosed a copy of a letter from Clyde Collins in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which said:

"You will be happy to know that souls are coming to the Lord week after week here in the Maritimes. Last night the clerk of one of our Baptist churches was saved after viewing "The Dying Thief." What a blessing this film has proved to many lost souls!"

I received a letter from a brother in the Lord just a few days ago, and he wants to give three months of the year to be used for the Lord in preaching with the Gospel films, and also giving his own personal testimony which he describes as a modern miracle. Together we praise the dear Lord for this man's life, now to be used for the glory of the Lord, and that many souls will be born again."

The other sermon in pictures and words is "He That Wineth Souls Is Wise." This same film is in print under the title of "The Sevenfold Sin of Those Who Do Not Win Souls," in the book, *The Ruin of a Christian*. It is twenty-five minutes long and God has used it powerfully in stirring the hearts of Christians to win souls.

Let Me Preach These Two Sermons in Your Community!

Of course I cannot go to more than a small fraction of the places where people wish to have me speak. That is, I cannot come in person. BUT I CAN SEND THESE FILMS! I will be glad to send a godly preacher to your church or community as you wish, to have a great service with these two motion picture sermon films. He will show first the film on soul winning and take subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD; then show the film, "The Dying Thief" and give an invitation to the unsaved to accept Christ.

Mr. C. E. Christopherson who is now working full-time with THE SWORD OF THE LORD, an earnest and well-trained Christian man, sound in the faith, will show these pictures for THE SWORD OF THE LORD and earnestly try to bless Christians and win souls.

We will expect only a free-will offering to take care of Mr. Christopherson and his expenses.

If you are far from Wheaton we can still arrange for Mr. Christopherson or others of our representatives to come and present these two messages of mine, a program of a little more than one hour altogether. But we need your cooperation in getting us in touch with other churches in your area who would likely want these messages in their churches.

Write us today! If you would prefer to have Mr. Christopherson show these films, tell us something of the size crowd expected and give us the name of a half-dozen other churches in the same area that you think would be interested in the program also. Write today to:

John R. Rice
214 West Wesley Street
Wheaton, Illinois

You May Buy These Films or Show Them to Churches Yourself

If you have a 16 mm. sound motion picture projector, you may buy these films and show them regularly for the Lord. The twenty minute film, "The Dying Thief" you may buy for \$50.00; the twenty-five minute sermon film sells for \$50.00 also, and they may be ordered directly from Sword of the Lord Publishers, or if you prefer, from the Scriptures Visualized Institute. If you wish to rent the films for one

Help Us Plan Sword Conferences

Great plans are forming for future conferences on evangelism. November 21-28 THE SWORD OF THE LORD will sponsor a great conference at Chicago Gospel Tabernacle, with the assistance of many leading pastors, churches and organizations of the Chicago area. Detailed plans will be announced soon. Next spring eight great conferences are planned, with fifteen or sixteen of America's leading soul winners taking part. Eight of the greatest speakers will rotate, taking part in all the conferences the same week, God willing.

But we especially want the help of our friends in planning these great conferences on evangelism to spread revival fire, teach Christians how to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how to win souls and inspire preachers for revival.

Summer conferences on evangelism, under the direction of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, are now planned for next year at Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia; at Siloam Springs, Arkansas, God willing (though we have not yet worked out all the plans); and at Cedar Lake, Indiana.

service or for a few days, they may be had very reasonably from Scriptures Visualized Institute, Wheaton, Illinois.

I am trying to preach the gospel to every creature I can possibly reach, whether in person, or through THE SWORD OF THE LORD or through my books, or

But we feel a burden to spread these revival fires everywhere possible. We would like to have four or five other summer conferences, on evangelism. We suggest that local groups of Christians plan together and see where some other great conferences could be arranged.

Since we would have a very large program, we should have conferences only where there are accommodations for four hundred or more to live on the ground or adjacent, besides a much larger auditorium to take care of the drive-in crowd.

We would want the backing and fellowship and cooperation of godly, fundamental Christian people in the area. Those who have in mind a conference ground, or some other set-up where a great summer conference on evangelism could be held by THE SWORD OF THE LORD, featuring the greatest soul winners in America, will you please counsel together and then write us suggestions? Address, Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor THE SWORD OF THE LORD 214 West Wesley Street Wheaton, Illinois

the radio or through these motion picture films. Will you help me get these films shown in your church or community?

**PLEASE MENTION
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Dr. Bob Jones Says:

"I would like to call the attention of our good friends to the following letter which I just received from a Bob Jones University student:

"Dear Dr. Bob: At the close of the school year when you requested those who would try to win one hundred souls this summer to raise their hands, with a rather doubtful heart, I raised my hand. But praise His name, with the souls He used me to win to Himself last night, I find the total number of souls He has given me since the school year ended has reached one hundred and three. Since the summer is only half over, I feel that I can trust the Lord to use me to win at least that many more during the remaining weeks. Do pray for me that I may."

"I shall never cease to praise the Lord throughout all the ages of eternity for the wonderful training and influence I have received at Bob Jones University. I came two years ago with full intentions of being a chemical engineer, but last October the Lord won my heart for the carrying of the Gospel to the hungry souls of Japan. I have had my first real experience in preaching this summer, and I do thank the Lord for the wonderful way in which He has provided many wonderful opportunities to proclaim the wonders of His grace from the pulpit. The summer before I came to Bob Jones University I had no deep interest in winning souls for Christ, and I won only two for Him all summer. As a result of the inspirations and challenges of a year at Bob Jones University I had a much deeper desire to win souls, and He gave me seventy souls last summer. This

Signed _____,

You friends will not forget that we are endeavoring to raise one million dollars as a Student Loan Endowment Fund so we can help worthy young people who do not have enough money to pay all their expenses through school. Remember, we have told you that we have been experimenting for fifteen years making loans to such students and so far we have not lost one cent on any money we have loaned to any student. We have also explained to you that we have demonstrated for these fifteen years that we can pay our operating overhead if we can collect in full from all the students.

Now if you friends will contribute a million dollars to this Student Loan Endowment Fund, you will not only help worthy students who need help but you will solve the problem of the financial operating overhead of Bob Jones University. Please help us all you can. Send a cash contribution now and from time to time send additional contributions, and please don't forget to pray for us. Just write me personally, care of Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina. Thank you and God bless you."

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Working for 41 years under the name of the Russian Missionary Society, Inc., our original effort to Christianize Russians has spread to include Slavic races all over the earth—Asia, Palestine, Europe, No. and So. America, Australia and So. Africa. This expanded scope of our work and the political significance of the word "Russian" explain the change in name.

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Daniel Webster Said It

A hundred years ago Daniel Webster said, "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, . . . I do not know what is to become of us as a nation. And the thought is one to cause solemn reflection on the part of every patriot and Christian. If truth be not diffused, error will be. If God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy. If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will. If the power of the Gospel is not felt through the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation or end."

Surely the spreading of Christian literature is one of the greatest ministries. We are proud and honored to be in such a ministry, and it is our prayer that the blessing of God will be on it. We need your help; we want you to have the books to bless your own heart and home and life; and we want you to tell your friends about them. We want you to consider them when you give gifts to your friends, to use them as rewards in your Sunday school class. There are so many ways

in which to use the books that we are eager to have you share the blessing with us and pass it on to others.

Response to the two relatively new books, IS JESUS GOD by Dr. John R. Rice and BREAD FROM BELLEVUE OVEN by Dr. Robert G. Lee has been thrilling. Outstanding Christians of the leading denominations have already written us enthusiastic word about each of them. We want to pass on to you a few of the most recent reviews. The first is from *The Standard*, in the issue of May 14, 1948.

The Standard — May 14, 1948:

The bread offered here looks attractive, feels warm and fresh, and is rich in vitamins. Dr. Lee of Memphis is a master-baker.

That his sermons and ministry are appreciated can be seen by the phenomenal growth of his church. A year ago, in his nineteenth year at Bellevue Baptist Church, 1,000 were added to the membership, 373 by baptism. There are now nearly 8,000 members of the church.

This volume contains eight strong sermons; eloquent, varied, solid, evangelistic, stirring. "Is Hell a Myth?" is a message that is surely needed in any age, but especially in ours, with its reckless sinning. "The Menace of Mediocrity" presents a challenge

to the Christian to be his best for God.

Typographically the book is attractive, with jacket and fly-leaves presenting views of the Bellevue church and pictures of its pastor.

Both the books were reviewed recently in the *Reformed Presbyterian Advocate*. We quote them in full here, knowing you will be interested in these reviews of two recent *Sword of the Lord Publishers Books*.

REVIEWS—*Reformed Presbyterian Advocate*, 306 E. Gale St., Philadelphia 20, Penna.

Dr. Robert G. Lee, eight of whose sermons have been collected to form "Bread From Bellevue Oven," is one of the foremost preachers of the Southern Baptist Church. Since going to Memphis nineteen years ago, he has never taken in less than 430 members in a year and last year there were 1,000 additions. The appeal has not been one of worldly amusement or carnality in the church, but rather that of a straight-forward presentation of Christ as the Saviour of sinners and the hope of the world. Considerably over half a million dollars have been given to missions during Dr. Lee's pastorate at Bellevue.

Those of us who have heard Robert G. Lee preach think of him as an orator—a great orator. He has a way of presenting old truth in a new setting. His use of English language, and his knowledge of the best of literature is dedicated wholly to His Saviour, and used in the presentation of God's holy Word, to which Dr. Lee is unflinchingly loyal. You will be fed and blessed by Bread from Bellevue Oven.

Is Jesus God? Reviewed by The *Reformed Presbyterian Advocate*, 306 E. Gale St., Philadelphia, Penn. Charles F. Pfeiffer, Editor.

The subtitle of this book, "An Answer to Infidels in the Church and Out," indicates the purpose of Dr. Rice in preaching and writing the messages which comprise this volume. After two introductory chapters, the author writes on the virgin birth; fulfilled prophecy; and the resurrection, each testifying to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is none other than the Son of the Most High God, God manifest in the flesh. A concluding chapter, "What is wrong with a modernist," makes it clear that a modernist is not a Christian and needs salvation through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

With repeated expression of our sincere appreciation and prayer for blessing upon your great ministries, we are

"Yours in His love and grace,
(Signed) Bernard N. Bancroft"

100 Copies of "Bible Baptism" and "Sermon From a Catholic Bible" Sent

We have sent one hundred copies each of the two booklets mentioned, *Sermon From a Catholic Bible* and *Bible Baptism*. The book, *Bible Baptism*, because of very heavy increase in printing costs has been raised in price to fifty cents a copy, while *A Sermon From a Catholic Bible* has been reduced from twenty-five cents to fifteen cents per copy. During the August sale prices these two hundred copies of these two pamphlets would cost \$52 instead of \$65. Perhaps some Christian friend will want to help us in this burden of getting out the literature. The missionaries in the Philippine Islands have found a wonderfully ripe field since the close of the war. Filipinos love the United States, and they have been so burdened and distressed that many hearts were opened to the gospel during the war. When we find reputable, well-trained, soul-winning missionaries whom we can trust in this matter, we are glad to let them distribute our gospel literature for us in the Philippine Islands. Three other missionaries are helping in the Philippine Islands distribute our literature. If you want to help in this matter, send your offerings to the Free Literature Fund. I hope someone will send \$52 to pay for this shipment to Brother Bernard N. Bancroft, and I hope that thousands will pray for God's blessings on the soul-winning work of these missionaries and on the literature which we send.

"Our faith has known some small testing recently, and some of the messages in *How to Have a Revival* came in just right. For many months I have been praying and longing for a means of transportation to the many isolated villages around the islands of our province. Before Christmas the Lord gave us a sturdy sailboat, fully equipped for evangelistic travels—when it was completed and the outboard motor came it was already too late in the northeast monsoon season for use, so I came home to Cuyo for a couple of months. When I was all ready to go back to the mainland, the diarrhoea which had been plaguing me turned out to be a serious

Mrs. Carl Webb,
LaGrange, Indiana.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE CHURCH

By the Editor

A minister writes: "Would you please tell me concisely the extent of woman's work in the church? I have your book on *Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers*."

ANSWER:

August 17, 1948

Dear Brother _____:

I was glad to have your letter and I pray that God will richly bless you.

I believe that God does have a work for women to do in the church. I believe a woman may teach women, or teach children. I think a woman may testify in a public service if the pastor or some other man is in charge, leading the meeting, and if she is only one of several. First Corinthians 14:31 says that "ye may all prophesy." That is, all Christians filled with the Holy Spirit may give a testimony in the power of the Spirit. I believe that when there is a circle of prayer and a number volunteering to pray, that women may pray publicly. But I do not believe that a woman ought to be pastor of a church, nor that a woman ought to be in charge of a service in which there are men. "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence," says I Timothy 2:12. I do not believe that a woman should expound the Word or in any other way take charge of a mixed service, teach men or have authority over men.

However, when you are new in the community, it will take time to gain leadership over the people and to prove yourself. And remember that this matter is not the first nor most important matter. The most important matter is to get Christians revived and to winning souls, and to get lost sinners saved. And if you prove yourself God's man with power, then people will listen to you as you expound the Word on these difficult and controversial matters. So prove yourself first by blessing the hearts of Christians, teaching them how to pray and how to win souls and how to live holy lives, and by winning souls yourself. Then you will find that God will raise up people more and more to hear you teach the Word of God on controversial subjects.

In Jesus' name, yours,
John R. Rice.

JRR:fa

The book, *Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers*, is clothbound, has six chapters, and has been greatly used of God in showing woman's place in the home and in the church. It has been greatly used to make homes happy and to help godly women get their prayers answered and to win their unsaved husbands. The price in August sale only is 80c. It may be had from *Sword of the Lord Publishers*, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois, or perhaps from your book store.

MISSIONARY NEEDS SWORD LITERATURE

By the Editor

Missionary Bernard N. Bancroft, working under the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, as a missionary in the Philippine Islands at Cuyo, Palawan, writes as follows:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Just a note to express our deep gratitude to God and you His servant for the packages of books which came through safely two weeks ago. Eleanor and I are astonished at the bountiful gift, and will seek to make it of the widest usefulness to the Lord. I turned over to my wife the one set of books and pamphlets, except for a few we felt might move slowly in the library, and we presented those (e.g., *How to Have a Revival, Twelve Tremendous Themes*) to Pastor Alivio—you would have felt abundantly rewarded by his glowing pleasure at the gift. We both read the *HOME* immediately, as covering a subject we have not seen treated satisfactorily or frankly. Judging your statements by the experience of our own happy married days (eight years, four children) we cannot find words to express strongly enough our genuine satisfaction in your work. You'll allow us a few small points of difference—those do not mar our great thankfulness for the book, nor limit our intention of using it as a silent marriage counselor among our young people out here.

"I am going to say one brief word about your mention of possible future needs, and then I will refrain from any more such requests—we have enough, and abound. There is simply no limit to the usefulness of your two booklets, *Bible Baptism*, and *Sermon From a Catholic Bible* in our Philippine field. If ever the Lord makes it possible for you to spare us more, we promise heartily to divide them among the four large sections of our work, Luzon, Palawan, Panay, and Bukidnon, to achieve the widest distribution of the message. *Bible Baptism* is an effective "anti"-Catholic message, and the gentle firmness of the other must surely carry it into many hearts here.

"Our faith has known some small testing recently, and some of the messages in *How to Have a Revival* came in just right. For many months I have been praying and longing for a means of transportation to the many isolated villages around the islands of our province. Before Christmas the Lord gave us a sturdy sailboat, fully equipped for evangelistic travels—when it was completed and the outboard motor came it was already too late in the northeast monsoon season for use, so I came home to Cuyo for a couple of months. When I was all ready to go back to the mainland, the diarrhoea which had been plaguing me turned out to be a serious

amaebic dysentery infection. After several weeks of treatment, I started out again, and on the way discovered that a painful hemorrhoid had resulted from the weeks of dysentery. I am now over in Iloilo, going into the hospital this very afternoon for surgery which should send me out fully recovered in about a week. Meanwhile, my little shiptet sits on the beach over in Puerto Princessa, and the weeks of good weather go rolling by. There has been some strong disappointments, but the Lord has given us peace in Himself.

"With repeated expression of our sincere appreciation and prayer for blessing upon your great ministries, we are

"Yours in His love and grace,
(Signed) Bernard N. Bancroft"

100 Copies of "Bible Baptism" and "Sermon From a Catholic Bible" Sent

We have sent one hundred copies each of the two booklets mentioned, *Sermon From a Catholic Bible* and *Bible Baptism*. The book, *Bible Baptism*, because of very heavy increase in printing costs has been raised in price to fifty cents a copy, while *A Sermon From a Catholic Bible* has been reduced from twenty-five cents to fifteen cents per copy. During the August sale prices these two hundred copies of these two pamphlets would cost \$52 instead of \$65. Perhaps some Christian friend will want to help us in this burden of getting out the literature. The missionaries in the Philippine Islands have found a wonderfully ripe field since the close of the war. Filipinos love the United States, and they have been so burdened and distressed that many hearts were opened to the gospel during the war. When we find reputable, well-trained, soul-winning missionaries whom we can trust in this matter, we are glad to let them distribute our gospel literature for us in the Philippine Islands. Three other missionaries are helping in the Philippine Islands distribute our literature. If you want to help in this matter, send your offerings to the Free Literature Fund. I hope someone will send \$52 to pay for this shipment to Brother Bernard N. Bancroft, and I hope that thousands will pray for God's blessings on the soul-winning work of these missionaries and on the literature which we send.

Sub. Given in Time of Trouble; Blessing Continues 5 Years

"... I have been reading *THE SWORD* for about five years. I was in very bad health when this paper first was given to me by a friend, also in deep distress mentally. I know it was through this paper and your book on *Prayer* that my life was revolutionized. I had never seen anything like these writings before. The Lord used this book to teach me to trust Him and it taught me how to ask for things I never would have thought to pray for. He has graciously taken care of all my mental problems and my health is nearly wholly restored. Your writings cleared my mind on many spiritual difficulties and truly led me to rid my soul of all sin, and I know the Lord today as my most precious Friend whose presence I enjoy always. This close walk was brought about mainly by your writings. I truly thank God for the way He so wonderfully uses Dr. Rice. We remember Dr. Rice and the *Sword* office daily in our prayers..."

Mrs. Carl Webb,
LaGrange, Indiana.

Those who want to help with gifts for missionary literature, write to Free Literature Fund, The *Sword of the Lord*, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

WHAT TO DO FOR HEAVY HEARTS

Barnabas was called "the son of consolation" in Acts 4:36. How he lifted up the hands of the apostles! How he comforted the sorrowing! Having land, he sold it, brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. And Acts 11:24 says of Barnabas, the son of consolation, "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

How we do need sons and daughters of consolation to comfort the people of God, to encourage the faint! Most of us TALK a fine religion, but we do not act as well as we talk. We long to comfort the sad, to encourage the discouraged, but we do little about it. Let me give you two letters that came in today's mail to show you how two people were richly comforted in time of distress.

From Isola, Mississippi, a Christian woman writes:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Sunday morning with a heavy heart, being a child of God with an awful burden, I met my pastor. He just handed me your book, *God's Cure for Anxious Care*. I have read it through. I am poorly educated; don't know words to tell you what it has meant to me. But surely the Lord was with you while you wrote it, for it is a spirit-lifter.

"Will you pray for me and our little church, also our young people whom I teach?"

Blessed pastor! He knew the answer to this sister's troubled heart, gave her the book, *God's Cure for Anxious Care*, and now in joyful words that cannot quite express the gladness of her heart, she writes to thank us.

The other letter is from East Detroit, Michigan, and says:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"Your book on *God's Cure for Anxious Care* was here when I came home from the hospital after an automobile accident. I just finished reading it and just can't put into words what a comfort and uplifting affect it had on me, especially at a time when I most needed it."

You won't wonder that this comforted woman had sent in fifteen subscriptions and she expects to pass around the extra copies of the book, *God's Cure for Anxious Care*, to troubled souls who need this comfort and heartening and encouragement.

When you see this lovely book of

127 pages, nine chapters of comfort and encouragement, and read it for yourself, you will see why we set aside five thousand copies to be given away absolutely free with subscriptions to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. God forgive us for not doing more to comfort the people of God, to lift up feeble hands and to strengthen weak knees! God forgive us for not bearing one another's burdens and so fulfilling the law of Christ.

I hope you will send as many subscriptions to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* as possible at the special rate of 8 months (35 weekly issues) for \$1.00. Or you may make each subscription 24 months, two full years, for \$3.00. And for each \$3.00 worth of subscriptions, either new or renewal, we will be glad to send a copy of this lovely clothbound book, this book with pictured flowers and birds to remind you of God's loving care, this beautiful gift book to comfort the sad and strengthen Christians. Please send your subscriptions at once. Mark each subscription "new" or "renewal" and give names and addresses carefully. Be sure to tell where we are to send the free books—one for each \$3.00 worth of subscriptions.

Remember that this special offer closes midnight, September 15. Be sure to get your subscriptions in the mail and postmarked by that time in order to get the free premium book or books.

Address your letter to *Sword of the Lord Publishers*, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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Mark 11:24

(Continued from Page 3)

Usually they had two kinds of plate lunches. One day it would be frankfurters and sauerkraut. The other plate would be brains or sweetbread or some kind of variety meat. You could not get beefsteak or roast. It was during the war. Most roasts and steaks went to the army and expensive restaurants. I said, "Heavenly Father, I have worked hard. The doctor says I need beef. And I am away from home. Wouldn't it be nice if I had some short ribs of beef today? I am hungry for short ribs of beef. I would preach the same for You whether I had them or not. It would not help the meeting any, or anything like that; but I would take it as a token of Your love and care if I could have some short ribs of beef today!"

I went into the little restaurant and sat down. The waitress said, "We have two kinds of plate lunches today." I have forgotten what one of them was, but the other one included short ribs of beef! I sat there and my heart just sang and sang! I said, "I am away from home, but I am not alone. I cannot see my wife and children, I am working hard, and I have burdens nobody else knows about; but One knows about them, and He cares." When I ordered short ribs of beef He said, "Sure, I'll fix the restaurant's whole program so you can have short ribs of beef."

I have somebody who loves me. I have somebody who cares. He counts every hair of my head. If I were to pull one of them out today He would have to change all the records in Heaven. He watches the sparrows, and not one of them falls to the ground without my Father. He is the One who paints all the lilies. Solomon in all his glory walking up to the temple was not dressed up as they are. And God cares that much about me. If I want short ribs of beef I will just ask for them. Ask for what you want!

B. Take God Into Every Secret of Your Heart!

Oh, the trouble with you Christians is that you do not take God into all your secrets. It was one great day for me when I said, "Lord Jesus, come in; take over the whole show." I had had the Lord in the parlor as a sort of guest. But I had said, "Don't come in the kitchen; that is not clean enough. And some of the closets are not swept out well." One day I said, "Lord Jesus, come in and take charge of the whole business. You are not a guest; You live here. You not only live here; you can run the whole shebang! I will tell You everything my heart cries for, everything I want, everything I need—things that might even be a luxury. But if I want them I am going to ask You for them." God loves me; and shame, shame on me, sometimes I do not even tell Him what I want so that He can make His love known!

Do you know what God wants you to do? He wants you to take everything to him in prayer. He wants you to tell Him everything you want. So then when you go to pray, ask for what you want.

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

I am going to tell Him about everything I want. If there is anything I want that is wrong I will say, "Lord, here it is. If there is anything wrong with it, You see it. Help me to fix my 'wanter.' But I am not going to keep any secrets from You. I am not going to hide anything from You. I am going to lay everything out before You." It certainly is sweet to take Jesus into every part of your life.

... Do It By Midnight Tuesday!

The August sale is nearly over! If you haven't sent in your order for these great Christian books at the 20% reduction, you will have to act immediately or miss out. All orders at the special rates advertised for the August sale must be postmarked not later than midnight, Tuesday, August 31. This is your final notice. You can take advantage of these special low prices only if you give the matter your immediate attention. Only a few days left!

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